



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Getting Ahead of the Curve

Dear Pastor,

A friend of mine coaches college baseball. I asked him what it meant to “get ahead of the curve.” He explained that if a pitcher is known for curve balls, a batter should position himself at the front of the batting box because it gives him an advantage against the curve ball.

We’re all experiencing the “curve ball” of COVID-19. I’d like to suggest one way to “get ahead of the curve” relative to what is happening now in our country.

As you know, many US citizens will be receiving checks or direct deposits from the federal government in the near future. The intent of these funds, as I understand it, is to help those families hardest hit by the economic impact of the government’s response to COVID-19 and to also provide some economic stimulus.*

My suggestion for “getting ahead of the curve” is to encourage your people to think carefully about how they will use these funds. There are any number of individuals and families who have not directly suffered adversely, as well as some on fixed incomes, who may not necessarily need all of this money to help them get by.



At least for now, my wife and I fall into this category. I suspect some, if not many, of your church members do as well. **I think the call for all of us, regardless of our circumstances, is to be good stewards of these funds.**

Here are some questions for all of us to consider (no doubt you can think of others):

- What portion of these funds should go towards the ministry of my local church?
- What portion of these funds should go towards supporting other Christian ministries? (Christian camps, for example, have suffered the loss of revenue from cancelled retreats and an uncertain summer ministry). Other ministries like Christian schools and pro-life Pregnancy Care Centers may have special needs as well.
- Are there missionaries we support that have special needs brought on by the challenges of responding to this virus?
- Do I have family members experiencing special needs that I can help meet with these funds?
- Are there families in my church experiencing special needs that I can help?
- What local businesses would benefit from my patronage with some of these funds?
- How much of these funds should be used to reduce personal debt (mortgage, credit card, etc.)?

Our first priority is always to honor God with our stewardship by supporting ministry, and we are also responsible to provide for ourselves and our families (Cf. II Thess. 3:6-10). Clearly it is often a balancing act, but I believe as we ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) and commit ourselves to faithful stewardship (I Cor. 4:2; Cf. Lk. 16:10-11), the Lord can and will direct our hearts and minds to be good stewards.

Maybe for you, part of “getting ahead of the curve” is to generate a “pastoral epistle” to your people now, before these funds arrive, to encourage them in their financial stewardship. It is just one more way of being a good shepherd.

May the Lord richly bless you with wisdom, peace and grace for ministry during this health emergency.

In Christ,

WFC Church Ambassador
Dave Lingle

PS: Please be sure to vote today if you have not already done so. Please pray with us for a good outcome for the State Supreme Court race. We encourage you to also remind your people about voting today. It's easy to forget in the midst of everything else going on. Our Voter Information Publication for the Supreme Court candidates is available [HERE](#).

PPS: For information on the CARES Act legislation and how churches and non-profits are being considered, please refer to this helpful information from our friends at Ministry CPA [HERE](#).

*The legislation signed into law by President Trump last week is known as the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act). Whether or not it is wise for our elected officials to generate another two trillion plus dollars in debt is an important issue. Personally, I am concerned about the wisdom of doing this. But it is happening, so I think the question becomes: "How can we best steward these funds?"